

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Southeastern Louisiana Regional Planning Commission, LA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Southeastern Louisiana Regional Planning Commission for a Brownfields Pilot. The Pilot area covers more than 3,000 square miles and encompasses nine parishes. Southeastern Louisiana is a culturally diverse region covering 3,400 miles. It has a population of almost 1.4 million, 1 million of whom live in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. Primarily a commercial center with a thriving tourist industry, the region is both urban and rural. Parish unemployment rates range from 6 percent to 11 percent; minority populations range from 12 percent to 68 percent; and up to 32 percent of parish residents live in poverty. The Pilot will work through the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), a state commission responsible for regional planning and coordinating efforts.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot plans to establish a regional brownfields redevelopment model and create tools to help area parishes and municipalities develop local solutions to brownfields problems. Ultimately, these solutions will lead to brownfields redevelopment, new jobs, and increased tax revenue. To accomplish this goal, the Pilot will establish regional partnerships to help guide brownfields planning and redevelopment, assist

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Southeastern Louisiana
Regional Planning Commission*

Date of Announcement:
March 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot, comprising nine parishes in southeastern Louisiana, will develop a regional brownfields redevelopment model to foster local solutions to local brownfields problems.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

municipalities in developing streamlined policies and regulations, research and establish approaches to gathering site data for use in a regional geographic information system (GIS), and create model site assessments strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing the Southeastern Louisiana Regional Brownfields Consortium to guide regional brownfields planning and project activities. The Consortium will comprise parish representatives, government, businesses, and financial institutions;
- Developing uniform criteria for site identification and selection;
- Formulating a regional brownfields redevelopment model, which will include standardized procedures for Phase I and II site assessments; and
- Developing and encouraging regionally compatible GIS criteria.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.